

'Human Torch' Teaches Her Family Healthful Living

Nearly burned to death 17 months ago, a 5-year-old girl at Del Amo kindergarten is fighting her way back, at the same time bringing to her family a whole new life.

Teresa Cazares is one of 10 children born to Pedro Cazares, 41, and his wife, Carmen, 36. Only Maria Elena, born in Torrance a year ago, and their Kansas-born mother, are U. S. citizens. The others were born in Mexico and moved to Torrance in 1956.

Teresa, who will be six May 3, has silky brown hair and amber eyes that flash when she is happy. Her skin is the color of new cream, where it isn't scarred by fire that covered 15 percent of her little body with first, second and third degree burns.

Stark Terror
When flames from a butane stove enveloped her, four-year-old Teresa was plunged into a world of stark terror, surrounded by white-robed figures whose language and ministrations she couldn't even understand.

In the wake of her accident, help from many sources changed Teresa's life, and through her, that of her whole family. With the aid of Community Chest agencies such as Children's Hospital, Visiting Nurse Association in the Harbor Area, and Torrance branch YWCA, she has found new hope and new life.

Her father worked as a gardener in Long Beach. His pay was \$40 per week. They made their home in a condemned two-room shack, on the outskirts of Torrance. Their only light came from kerosene lamps. A cold water tap and toilet completed their sanitary facilities. For bathing, water was heated on a butane gas stove, carried outdoors and sloshed over their bodies.

Human Torch
In an effort to light the stove, Teresa became a human torch. Rushed to Harbor General Hospital, she remained there until she was well enough to be moved to Children's Hospital, Convalescent Home, March 24 last year.

At Children's Hospital, Teresa was hospitalized for plastic surgery, through the Physically Handicapped Children's Program, from May 25 to June 19 and, for a second time, from August 6 to 21. She returned to the Convalescent Home in the interval, with out-patient care, paid for by the Community Chest.

Teresa soon picked up English from the hospital nurses and attendants, forgetting her Spanish completely. She also acquired a taste for American food and hospital cleanliness.

Visiting Nurse
Before releasing the little girl they called on the Visiting Nurse Association Harbor office for a home evaluation, a service paid for by the Community Chest. Since Teresa's return home the Visiting Nurse, Mrs. Yoko Fujii, has continued with the adjustment of many home problems.

Teresa didn't want beans and tortillas. She wanted American food. She didn't want to play in the dirt and she didn't want the other children to do it. Pedro Cazares got a better job, \$50 per week at Del Amo Nurseries in Torrance. Carmen worked in the fields for a pittance, to supplement the family income.

None of the children were in school. Celia, the oldest, 15, looked after them and kept house. With the help of school authorities, Mrs. Fujii got them enrolled and persuaded Teresa to enter kindergarten.

Better Home
They have a better house now, with electricity and a real bathroom, provided rent free by Mrs. Pascualita Gonzales, mother of their neighbor and good friend, Mrs. Aurelia Reyes.

Teresa and her family of five sisters and four brothers can eat better now. They and their parents all have new clothes, furniture for their barren little house and toys they never dreamed of, because the Deltas, a Y-Teen group of Torrance High School seniors, headed by Carole Moore, 2617 Arlington, adopted them as a Thanksgiving project.

Donations were made by the Inter-Club Council and the family was given a Christmas party at Torrance YWCA with 11 hostesses representing member clubs, assisted by Virginia Burton, YW program director.

Writing in careful Spanish, Pedro Cazares thanked the Y-Teens for all they had done for his grateful family. His pride was touched. He felt now he should carry a man's responsibility for his family and they should feel free to help someone else in need.

More Test Results
Results of aptitude tests given to Torrance High School freshmen, were discussed with parents Tuesday by Robert Dollard, district psychologist. The students took two tests which help the students find the proper studies to take for an occupational goal and to determine his abilities.



GRATITUDE for gifts and kindness shown her family of five sisters, four brothers, is shown by five-year-old Teresa Cazares, for Carole Moore, Y-Teen Delta president, Torrance High School senior. Family of badly burned child, due for more plastic surgery at Children's hospital, is helped by Community Chest through Harbor Area Visiting Nurse Association, Torrance branch YWCA teen-age groups. Brown Studio Photo

Parents Win Quick Fight to Keep Traffic Signal

A delegation of parents easily won a battle to keep a signal and boulevard stop on Torrance Blvd. to protect school children.

Last week the City Council approved a Traffic Commission recommendation to move the signal at Torrance Blvd. and Fern Ave. to Torrance and Hickory, and eliminate the flashing boulevard stop at Torrance and Hickory.

"After taking a look, I think I made a mistake," announced Councilman Victor Benstead in seeking to rescind the previous decision.

Police Lt. Don Nash said that the move of the signal was made in order to provide a smoother flow of traffic along Torrance Blvd.

But Councilman Robert Jahn, who heads the Traffic Commission, claimed that to rely on a signal for safety gives "a feeling of false security."

The delegation of parents from Torrance Gardens, asked that the present signal be retained in order to protect children who must cross the street to attend school.

Its spokesman was George Ackerman of 1104 Cerise Ave.

The Council advised the commission to return with an alternate suggestion.

See Spat, Motive For Fire

Investigation of a Lomita fire Sunday, was turned over to the Sheriff's Department following a report of suspected arson.

Although firemen placed the cause of a \$400 blaze in the home of Donald and Harold Langford, 1928 W. 253rd Place, as defective wiring for a heating pad, the owners blamed a woman for starting it.

They told deputies that the former girl friend of one of them threatened to "get even" with them following an argument.

Firemen said the blaze, caused damage to the bedroom.

In another Lomita fire, approximately \$550 damage was caused to the living room of the home of Mrs. L. D. Walker, 1948 W. 257th St., Sunday morning.

Firemen said that the blaze was probably started by a cigarette in the upholstered furniture.

Pleads Guilty to Having Daughter Help in Theft

A mother who allegedly had her 12-year-old daughter help her steal two chickens, was placed on two years probation by Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett Tuesday.

Mrs. Phyllis Herd, 29, of 20506 Budlong Ave., told police she did not have enough money to feed her family after they arrested her on a petty theft charge. She was held by employees of the Fox Market, 1321 Post Ave. Sunday when they observed the girl carry out the box with the two chickens.

General To Speak at Dinner

Reservations are already "pouring in" for the Torrance Chamber of Commerce annual banquet slated for March 4 starting at 7:30 p.m., according to banquet chairman, Sy Frank.

Major General Elvin S. Ligon, Jr., of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, will fly here for the gathering. General Ligon is in charge of recruiting for the U. S. Air Force and is recognized as one of the nation's foremost speakers.

"Hawaiian Holiday" will be the theme of the event in recognition of the Chambers' Tour of the Hawaiian Islands scheduled for April 3-10.

In keeping with the theme, Hawaiian entertainment will be featured, but the committee says no Hawaiian food will be served. Rather, "Omaha" New York steaks will be served by Caterer Ray Bell and Peggy Delaney.

Members of Frank's committee include Herma Tillim, Mrs. Victor E. Benstead, Jr., Mrs. Margaret Clark, Dick Pyle, Jack Phillips, Jim Becker, and Kenyon Uyeda.

No Loss Caused By Storm

A tropical rain which started Sunday brought welcome precipitation and little damage here this week.

The showers brought 1.79 inches of rain, boosting the season's total to date to 5.15 inches, officials at the Torrance Municipal Airport said.

Despite the storm, the rainfall this season is still far below that of last year, when 8.95 inches were recorded during the comparative period.

The city's sumps were still operating well within their capacities, but there was some ponding in the low spots of Walteria Lake, which last year at this time was filled with water.

Walteria Lake farmers, appeared to keep the low spot from filling by pumping water out. No streets were made impassable by the rain, although several low spots were covered with puddles.

Steal Berry Boxes

Theft of 20,000 strawberry cartons were reported stolen from a shed by Farmer Wenceslao Madrigal, of 20363 Valeris St.

The boxes, valued at \$250 were taken after the thief broke off the lock to the shed.

Probe Hit and Run In Injury of Child

Boy in Critical Condition

An investigation of a possible hit and run case was launched by police traffic officers yesterday following the critical injury of a 4½-year-old boy.

In Riviera Hospital today with a ruptured spleen and bruises on his side, is Darrel Anthony Almanza, of 4239 W. 177th St.

Doctors said the injury may have been caused by a blow, such as with a club.

Clothing worn by the youngster was immediately sent to the sheriff's crime lab to yield clues if the boy was struck by a vehicle while playing in the street.

His mother, Mrs. Shirley Almanza, reported that Darrel came home at approximately 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, crying and holding his side.

The clothing he wore was dirt-caked, leading to the suspicion that the tot was struck down. But Officer Bill Winther, in charge of the investigation, said there was no sign of blood on the clothes.

A neighbor said that earlier in the day, Darrel and another boy had been observed playing in the street.

The boy said he was unable to remember anything. His spleen was removed during surgery Tuesday night.

Winther said that his investigation has not yet disclosed whether the youngster was struck by an auto or if he had fallen.

Mother, Daughter Hurt in Accident

A mother and her daughter were injured in a two-car collision at Hawthorne and Sepulveda Blvds. Saturday, police reported.

Mrs. Alberta Mae Baber, 24, of 5106 Via El Sereno, and her daughter, Karen, 2, were listed as injured according to police.

The other vehicle was operated by William H. Oliver, 45, of 15326 Eastwood Ave., Lawndale, officers said.

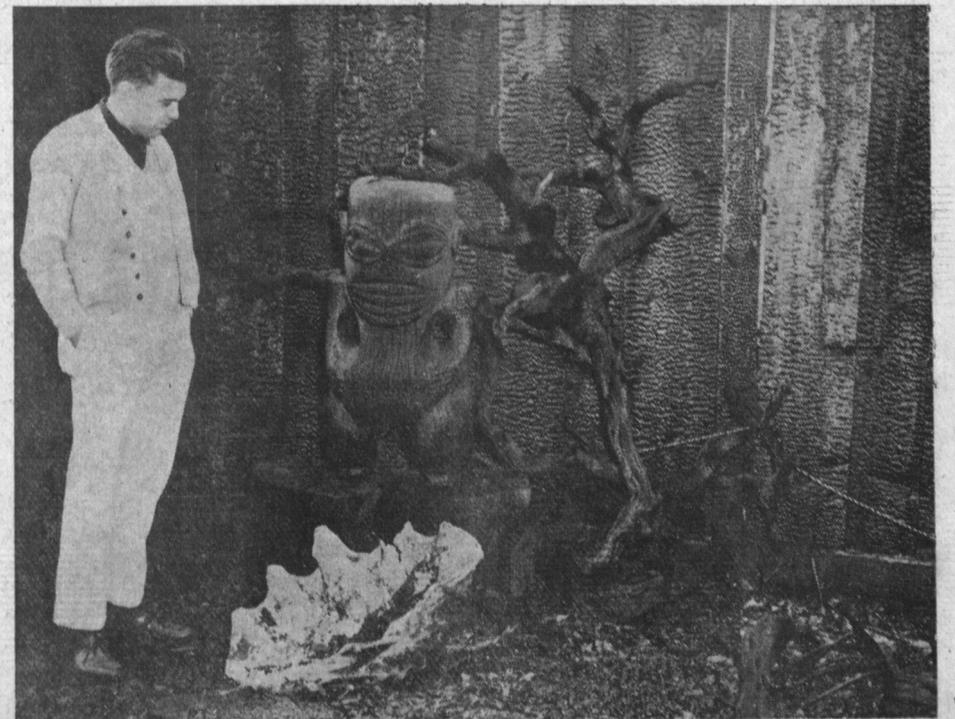
Broadway Salute Breakfast Theme

Torrance Business and Civic leaders were urged today by Chamber President Fred W. Mill to attend the "Salute to the Broadway" Membership Breakfast on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at the American Legion Hall, 1109 Border Avenue.

Mill said that the breakfast will honor the "greatest thing commercially to ever happen to Torrance."



FLOODS ARE FUN—Linda Lee Bosier, 6½, finds that puddles are there to be used to walk in. Her brother, Rodney, 8½, is not quite as enthusiastic, but holds her coat. Press Photo



IDOLS OF RUINS—Walter Wiesbauer inspects the charred South Sea idols following the disastrous fire at the exotic Polynesian Restaurant early Monday morning. Firemen estimate damage to the restaurant at between \$75,000 and \$90,000. Press Photo

Councilman Flays Bog in Street Work

Legal technicalities bog down city street projects, while private parties seem to have no problems with theirs.

That was the opinion aired Tuesday night by Councilman Willy Blount following discussion of street openings, including the proposed extension of Prairie Ave., through the General Petroleum property.

Blount said that while the city has been vainly waiting for an answer from the Public Utilities Commission for permission to install a signal for a railroad crossing on Arlington Ave., no such difficulty has blocked the extension of Carson St., which was pushed by the Del Amo Shopping Center.

He also cited that while there had been no problem in receiving an encroachment permit to link Carson St. with Hawthorne Blvd., the city is still waiting to connect up new Lomita Blvd. to Hawthorne Blvd., because it has

not yet been approved by the State.

He pointed out that the extension of Arlington is still blocked because the PUC has not granted the city permission for the wig wag signal it wants. At the same time, he noted, there is no signal at all for the railroad crossing on Carson St., completed last Friday in time for the Broadway opening.

Four Held In Dope Arrest

Four youths were arrested on narcotics charges Sunday, after deputy sheriffs said they found what appeared to be marijuana heuks and a pink capsule in their car.

A California Highway Patrolman originally stopped the car, driven by Delmar C. French, 19, of 4535 Narrot St., for a traffic violation at Western Ave. near 108th St.

He said the four occupants of the vehicle appeared to be under influence of some type of drug and searched the car.

One of the youths, Frank Hirata, 22, of 18245 Amie St., reportedly started trembling as if he had convulsions, and was taken to Hawthorne Hospital for treatment. Officers quoted an examining physician there as saying that he was 99 per cent sure the suspect was under the influence of a narcotic.

Booked along with French and Hirata were Reed Halford Knight, 20, of 4505 Catson St., and William Lee Martin, 20, of 16515 Firmona Ave., Lawndale.

Fire Guts Polynesian, Loss Expected to Exceed \$75,000

Only the shell remains today of the exotic Polynesian Restaurant, following a disastrous fire which gutted its interior early Monday morning.

Firemen estimate damage to the South Sea atmosphere eatery at between \$75,000 and \$90,000.

The blaze, which is believed to have originated in the lobby, spread throughout the dining room and bar of the restaurant at 3901 Pacific Coast Highway.

Tentative blame for the fire was placed on a cigarette that had been thrown into a paper container in the lobby of the establishment.

Pete Reitz, owner-manager of the establishment which opened 15-months ago on the city's Restaurant Row, was awakened by smoke while he slept in an office separated from the fire by only a door.

Four fire companies rushed to the scene and had the blaze under control in 15 minutes, but by that time the fire had spread throughout the main building, designed like a South-sea hut.

The fire department's aerial truck got mired down in mud at the scene, while a soft rain helped firemen in obtaining quick control of the blaze on the roof.

Fire Marshal Robert Lucas said that the fire may have originated in a waste basket in the lobby, and could have been smoldering for considerable time before Reitz was awakened.

The manager told firemen he stayed in the restaurant since he was unable to raise the top of his convertible car.

Reitz, unable to reach the phone in the kitchen, finally managed to have a neighbor call in the alarm. The kitchen received little or no damage in the blaze.

The Polynesian was the scene of a huge luau reception given last summer for Gov. Brown.

Panhandler Beats Jail by Escape from Courtroom

Margie Dutton, 28, became a fugitive from justice yesterday when she escaped from the Torrance Municipal Court after being sentenced to 90 days in jail on a begging charge.

Court attaches said that she vainly sought to avoid jail by trying to file an appeal. Next thing they noticed, she had walked out of the rear of the courtroom.

Cityhood Hearing Slated

Public hearing on the stormily contested incorporation of tiny Victoria Park as a gambling city, will be held April 2.

The Board of Supervisors Tuesday set the date of the hearing for the 1.2 square mile area.

In the meantime, opponents to the cityhood plan are still pressing their petition drive to seek exclusion from the potential city.

Rev. Paul Garrison to date has collected signatures representing more than 500 homes. There are 721 homes in the area which seeks exclusion.

Proponents of incorporation announced that cityhood for the small area can be supported by permitting the establishment of a Gardeca style poker club.

The move for incorporation is led by Joseph Asaro, a resident of the area, who last year was foiled in an attempt to legalize draw poker in Hermosa Beach.

City to Buy, Not Lease, New Police Vehicles

Recommendation that seven police cars be purchased rather than leased by the city, was made Tuesday by Chapman L. Bone, assistant city manager.

He suggested that the seven vehicles be purchased from the Bacon Sales Co. at a cost of \$18,796, and that the city contract with that firm to provide maintenance for the vehicles at a cost of \$900 per year each.

The city presently leases its police cars, but Bone urged that they be bought outright. If this proves more economical, he advocates that other police units also be purchased.